Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

LANCASTER, PENNA., FOR CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

[Among the "Yeates Papers," in the Manuscript Division, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, is the original of the letter sent to William Hamilton, Esq., by Edward Hand, Burgess, a copy of those forwarded to the Senators and Representatives of Congress, when the selection of a permanent location for the Federal city was being considered. The advantages of Lancaster, Penna., are set forth in detail by Burgess Hand.]

Lancaster March 17th 1789.

Gentlemen

The Corporation of this Borough have been instructed by the Inhabitants thereof & of the adjoining Townships to address you. The *new Constitution,* to which we anxiously look up as the Means of establishing the Empire of America on the most sure & solid Basis, is ere now in Motion & one of the Objects of *Congress* will be to fix on a permanent Place of Residence where their exclusive Jurisdiction can be *conviently* & *safely* exercised. Should the general Interests of the Union point out an Inland Central Situation as preferable to that of a Sea-port for the future Residence of that *Honorable Body,* We humbly presume to offer ourselves as Candidates for that distinguished Honor. We feel ourselves more emboldened to enter into the Lists, as we find this Borough has been lately put in Nomination by the *Honorable Congress* under the former Consideration, and we suffer ourselves to be flattered, that the Reasons which then subsisted for such a Choice, exist more strongly at the present Moment. As an Inland Town we do not perceive ourselves inferior to any within the Dominion of the United States.—Our Lands are remarkably fertile & in a high State of Cultivation, —Our Country is possessed of every Conveniency for Water Works as will appear by the Drafts herewith sent—& peculiarly healthy;—our Water is good;—Every necessary Material for Building is to be had in the greatest Quantity desired, & at the most reasonable

Rates, & we venture to assert that there is no Part of the United States which can boast within the Compass of ten Miles, the same Number of Waggons & good Teams with ourselves.

We are sensible that Dealing in Generals will have no Effect with dispassionate & temperate Minds.—We venture therefore to descend into a more minute Recapitulation & pledge ourselves to you for the Truth & Correctness of the following Statement, which has been made upon the most thorough Examination & in the Carefullest Manner in our Power without Exaggeration.

The Borough of Lancaster is a Sqare encompassing a Portion of Ground of one Mile in Length from the Center (the Court House) by the Main Streets which intersect it at right Angles. We have five public Buildings, Including an elegant Court House 58 Feet by 48 Feet. In the second Story thereof is a very handsome Room 44 Feet by 32 Feet in the Clear & two convenient adjoining Rooms each being 22 Feet by 16 Feet in the Clear.—There are seven Places of public Worship besides a Temporary Synagogue, belonging to the respective Societies of Episcopalians—Presbyterians, Lutherans, Reformed Church of Heidelberg, Moravians, Quakers & Catholics. Within the Compass of the Borough an Enumeration of the Dwelling Houses was actually taken in 1786 & the Number then built was 678, which since that Period has considerably increased. Many of the Houses are large elegant & commodious, & would in our Idea accommodate Congress & their Suite at this Period, without Inconvenience. Boarding & Lodgings are to be had at very easy Rates. According to the best Computation we can make there are within this Borough about 4200 Souls. A Number of great Roads pass through this Place,—we are a Thoroughfare to the 4 Cardinal Points of the Compass. Labour is to be had at the Rate of 2/ p Day;—

The Current Prices of Provisions are Wheat 5/6. Rye 3/. Indian Corn 2/6 Oats 1/6 p Bushel Best Hay £3 p Ton Pork & Stall fed Beef from 25/ to 30/ p C^{wt} Veal 3^{d}—& Mutton 3$\frac{1}{2}^{d}$ p lb—All Kinds of Poultry are in great Abundance & reasonable. Shad Rock & Salmon are plentifully supplied to us from the Susque-

hanah in their Seasons. The Prices of Fire Wood the last Season have been for Hickory Wood 12/6 & oak 8/6. p Cord. Within the Distances of 9 & 30 Miles from this Place, we have 6 Furnaces 7 Forges 2 Slitting Mills & 2 Rolling Mills for the Manufacture of Iron. Within a Compass of 10 Miles square we have 18 Merchant Mills, 16 Saw Mills, 1 Fulling Mill, 4 Oil Mills, 5 Hemp Mills, 2 Boring & Grinding Mills for Gun Barrels & 8 Tan Yards. There are a great Number of convenient Sites for Water Works still unoccupied.

Within the Borough alone are the following Manufacturers and Artisans Viz. 14 Hatters 36 Shoemakers, 4 Tanners, 17 Saddlers, 25 Taylors, 22 Butchers, 25 Weavers, 3 Stocking Weavers, 25 Black Smiths & White Smith, 6 Wheel Wrights, 21 Bricklayers & Masons, 12 Bakers, 30 Carpenters, 11 Coopers, 6 Plasters, 6 Clock & Watch Makers, 6 Tobacconists 4 Dyers, 7 Gun Smiths, 5 Rope Makers, 4 Tin Men, 2 Brass Founders, 3 Skin Dressers, 1 Brush Maker, 7 Turners, 7 Nailers, 5 Silver Smiths, 3 Potters & 3 Copper Smiths, besides their respective Journey Men & Apprentices. There are also 3 Breweries, 3 Brick Yards, 3 Printing Presses & 40 Houses of public Entertainment within the Borough.

The Materials for Building such as Stone Lime, Sand, Clay proper for Bricks, Timber Boards &c. are to be had in the greatest Abundance at the most reasonable Rates; We would instance as one Particular, that the best Pine Boards from the Susquehannah are delivered here at 5/6 p hundred Feet.

Our Centrical Situation will be best determined by the Consideration of the following Distances which pursue the Courses of the Roads now occupied, but may be shortened & which we consider as accurately taken Viz:

From Lancaster	Miles.
to Philad[a]	66
to Wilmington	50
to Newport	47
to Head of Elk	45
to North East	42
to Rock Run	38
to Mouth of Susquehanah	42

to Baltimore by M^c^Calls Ferry	60
to Trenton by Swedes Ford	90
to Coryells Ferry on Delaware	87
to Reading	31
to Easton	83
to Wrights Ferry on Susquehannah	10
to Harris's d^o^	36
to Andersons d^o^	13
to M^c^Calls d^o^	16
to Peach Bottom d^o^	22
to Nolands Ferry on Potowmack	93
to Harpers d^o^	110

We have presumed Gentlemen to make the foregoing Statement & address it to you. The general National Interests of *America* at large will, We are persuaded be fully considered, when the important Point of the future permanent Residence of *Congress* is agitated & determined on by that *Honorable Body.* We have Reason to Think that Wm Hamilton Esqr who is intitled to the Rent Charges & unoccupied Parts of this Borough would chearfully meet every Wish of Congress, so far as his Property is concerned. Permit us only to add that our Citizens are federal & strongly attached to the new System of Government:

We have the Honor to be with every Sentiment of
Respect Gentlemen,
Your most faithful
And obedient Hble Servt^s^
In Behalf of the Corporation
& Citizens.
Edwd Hand
Burgess.